

Plants of the wetland

Wetlands have many different plants growing, most of them have a special ability to grow in soils that are very wet and have few nutrients.

When you look at a wetland it has areas where:

- the water is sometimes. We call this **Moist soils – Zone 1**
- the water is most of the time. We call this **Wet soils – Zone 2**
- the water is all of the time. We call this the **Water margin – Zone 3**

Moist soils - Zone 1

Moist soils don't flood very often.

The types of trees you will see here are:

- Manuka
- Kahikatea

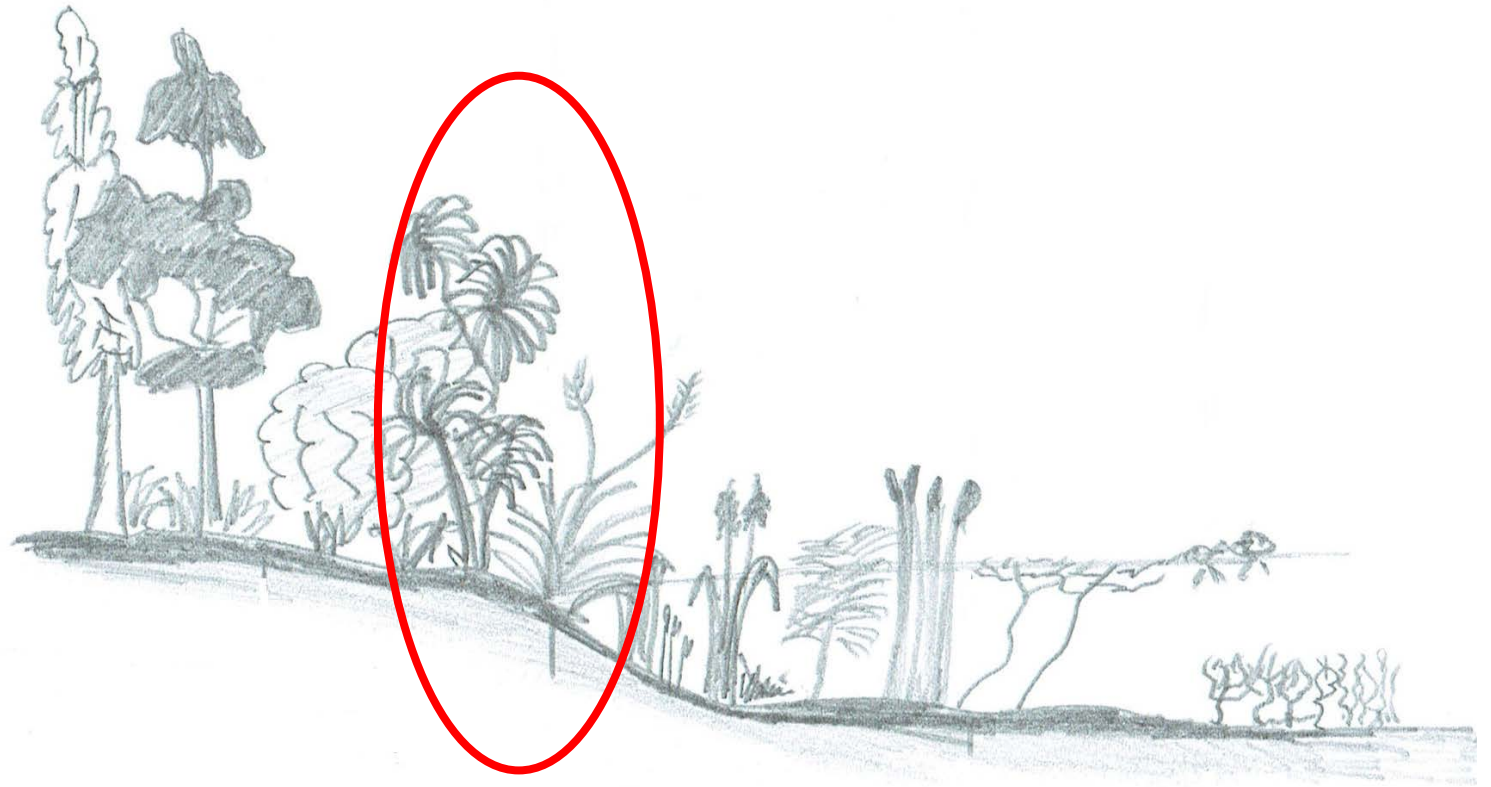


Wet soils - Zone 2

These soils will have temporary flooding. The plants that live in this area have to be able to tolerate being very wet then drying out again.

The types of plants you will find here will be:

- Toetoe
- Flax (harakeke)
- Cabbage tree (Ti Kouka)



Water margin - Zone 3

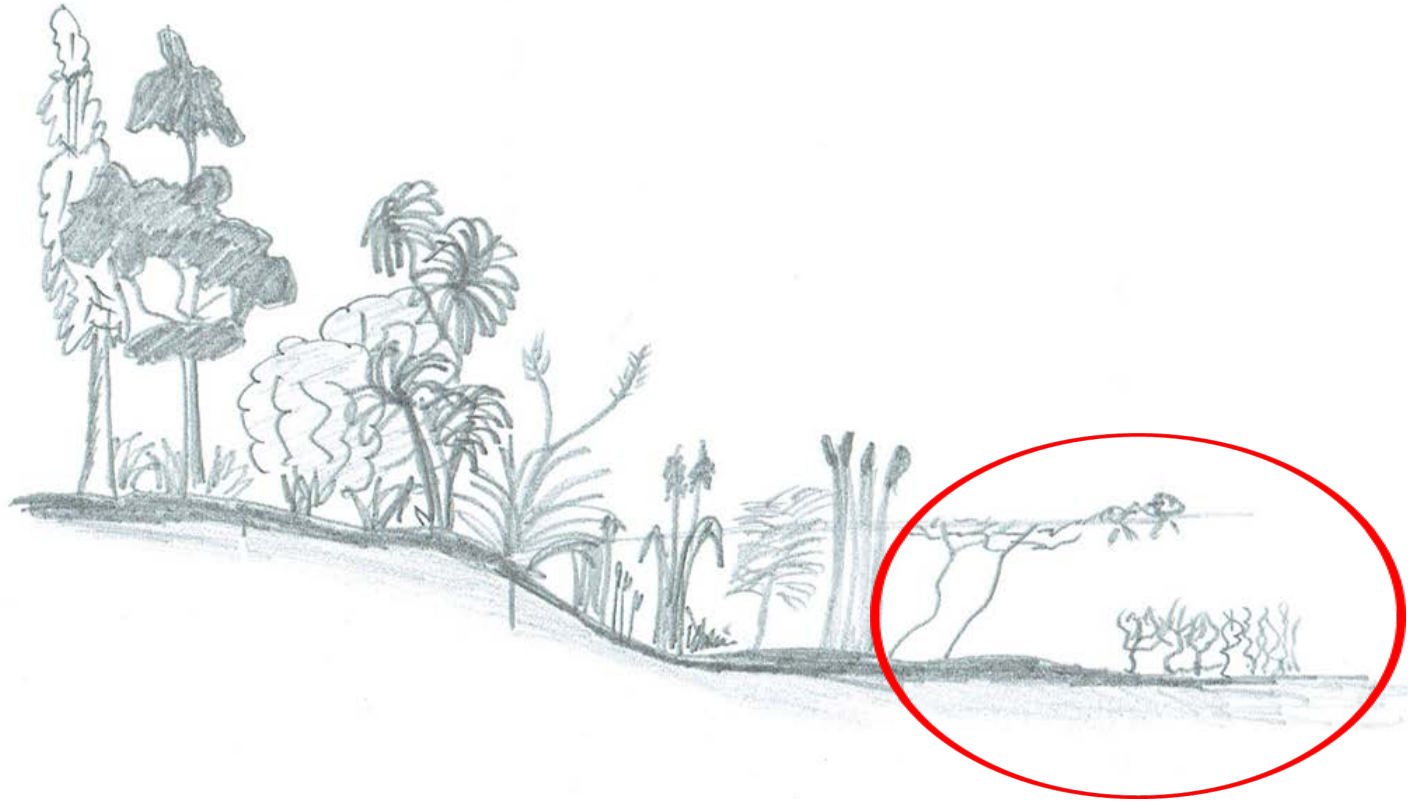
The water margin will have plants that will have their roots living in the water and their stems and leaves out of the water. These plants are also called *emergent plants*

The types of plants that live here:

- Sedges
- Rushes
- Sphagnum moss
- Raupo



Plants that live in the water



There are two types of plants that live in the water – *floating and submerged*.

Floating plants have their leaves floating on the water like duckweed and water lillies.

Submerged plants grow under the water like milfoils and pondweed.

Lets take a look at a wetland and identify the plants are areas ...



- **Zone 1 – Moist soils with trees like Kahikatea**

- **Zone 2 – wet soils with plants like cabbage trees and flax**

- **Zone 3 – water margin with plants like sedges and rushes**

- Submerged and floating plants

Lorraine Cook from Department of Conservation talks about carex plants in the wetlands



<https://youtu.be/zVtVRMKLLDg>